**God’s Sovereignty and Our Obstacles**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 13: Esther

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

May 10, 2020

**SERMON NOTES**

*Question: Where is God in our darkest times?*

1. **God Sovereignly Appoints a Young Girl**

* God sees scattered Israel
* God is preparing you for when He needs to call on you
  + Through how He designed and gifted you
  + Through your life experiences and challenges

1. **God’s Use of Esther Required an Act of Faith**

* See also Daniel, the three Hebrew Children, Ezra, and Nehemiah (other exiled instruments of God)
* When we obey in faith, God comes through!

1. **God Preserves His People and His Plan for Salvation**

* Through Esther’s obedience, Israel is saved from Haman’s evil plot

Esther is full of God’s “flipping the script.”

* Queen Esther’s selfless act for her people points us to Jesus, who left heaven to die for His people!

*God is working in our lives, even in the darkest times when we don’t see Him!*

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Do you ever have a hard time seeing God when things are dark? Share a recent experience of this with the group.
2. How may God be equipping you through a trial you’re facing right now? Fill in these blanks: “Because I am going through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will be better equipped to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
3. God’s use of us requires faith-filled obedience on our part. What demonstration of faith is necessary in how you are trying to serve God right now?
4. Scan the book of Esther, looking for scenarios of God’s “flipping of the script.” Even though God is not mentioned in Esther, what does this phenomenon reveal of the theology of Esther?

**Prayer:** Thank God for a time He’s worked in your life though a dark time, and commit to trusting Him for what you’re going through now.